

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 22, 24, and 26, cancel claims 9 and 11-21, and add claims 34-48 so the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

a containment basin;

a layer of oil absorbing material contained within said basin; and

a layer of oil adsorbing material also contained within said containment basin, on top of said layer of oil absorbing material, wherein ~~;~~ and

the layer of oil absorbing material, when saturated with oil, forms an oil-and-water-impermeable barrier, an oil-and-water permeable membrane or fabric between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of oil absorbing material.

2. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids.

3. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of adsorbing or retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

4. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises a granular layer of an oil absorbing material and/or an absorbent pad containing the oil absorbing material.

5. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said layer of oil adsorbing material.

6. (Currently Amended) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of fire retardant material.

7. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a layer of aggregate material positioned beneath said layer of oil absorbing material.

8. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a water permeable membrane between said layer of oil absorbing material and said layer of aggregate material.

9. – 21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) An oil retention tray for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

an elongate tray having a mesh bottom and being open at the top thereof;

a layer of oil absorbing material received on said mesh bottom; and

a layer of oil adsorbing material covering said layer of oil absorbing material, wherein ;
and

the layer of oil absorbing material, when saturated with oil, forms an oil-and water-impermeable barrier, an oil-and water permeable membrane or fabric between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of oil absorbing material.

23. (Original) The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 22, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises an absorbent pad containing an oil absorbing granular polymer and/or an oil absorbing porous solid material

24. (Currently Amended) The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 23, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric covering said layer of oil adsorbing material, and an oil and water impermeable membrane covering the sides of said oil elongate tray.

25. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 24, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said oil and water permeable membrane.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing an oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, wherein the oil spill containment system is received in a containment basin, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a layer of oil absorbing material within the containment basin;

~~providing an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric on top of said layer of oil absorbing material; and~~

providing a layer of oil adsorbing material on top of the layer of oil absorbing material ~~said oil and water permeable membrane or fabric and~~ within said the containment basin, wherein

the layer of oil absorbing material, when saturated with oil, forms an oil-and-water-impermeable barrier.

27. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of covering the layer of oil adsorbing material with a layer of fire retardant material.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising the step of, prior to the step of providing a layer of oil absorbing material within the containment basin, forming a layer of aggregate material on a foundation of the containment basin.

29. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of covering the layer of aggregate material with a water permeable membrane.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids, and wherein the oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

32. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the containment basin is positioned beneath and around the oil containing vessel prior to the forming step.

34. (New) The oil retention tray according to claim 22, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

35. (New) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises a granular polymer with oil absorbing properties.

36. (New) The oil retention tray according to claim 22, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises a granular polymer with oil absorbing properties.

37. (New) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, further comprising a water permeable membrane or fabric between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material, wherein the water permeable membrane or fabric is in contact with the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.

38. (New) The oil retention tray according to claim 22, further comprising a water permeable membrane or fabric between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material, wherein the water permeable membrane or fabric is in contact with the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.

39. (New) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, wherein the containment basin comprises concrete.

40. (New) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, further comprising a liner in the containment basin, the liner being impermeable to water and oil and extending partially between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.

41. (New) The oil retention tray according to claim 22, further comprising a liner in the elongate tray, the liner being impermeable to water and oil and extending partially between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.

42. (New) The oil spill containment system according to claim 5, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

43. (New) The oil retention tray according to claim 25, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

44. (New) The method of preparing an oil spill containment system according to claim 26, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

45. (New) The method of preparing an oil spill containment system according to claim 26, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises a granular polymer with oil absorbing properties.

46. (New) The method of preparing an oil spill containment system according to claim 27, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

47. (New) The method of preparing an oil spill containment system according to claim 26, further comprising providing a water permeable membrane or fabric between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material, wherein the water permeable membrane or fabric is in contact with the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.

48. (New) The method of preparing an oil spill containment system according to claim 26, further comprising providing a liner in the containment basin, the liner being impermeable to water and oil and extending partially between the layer of oil adsorbing material and the layer of oil absorbing material.